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Economic Commission for Europe

Executive Committee

Sixty-eighth meeting
Geneva, 30 April 2014
Item 7(b) of the provisional agenda
Decisions on matters relating to the Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration

Draft Decision

Decision approving the revised mandate and terms of reference of the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies

1. The ECE Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration (CECI), at its eighth session on 12–14 February 2014, adopted the revised mandate and terms of reference of the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies as contained in Annex II of the meeting report ECE/CECI/2014/2, and recommended to the Executive Committee to approve them.

2. The Executive Committee, at its sixty-eighth meeting on 30 April 2014, approved the revised mandate and terms of reference of the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies until 31 December 2016, as contained in the Annex.

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Annex

Revised mandate and terms of reference of the Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies

I. Introduction

1. The Programme of Work of the Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration (CECI) stipulates the establishment of a Team of Specialists to support the implementation of its work in the area of "Strengthening the competitiveness of member States' economies by promoting the knowledge-based economy and innovation" and taking into account cross-cutting issues related to innovation and competitiveness.

II. Mandate

2. The Team of Specialists on Innovation and Competitiveness Policies (TOS-ICP) supports the implementation of the Programme of Work of CECI. The TOS-ICP addresses issues related to the creation of a supportive environment for innovative development and knowledge-based competitiveness in ECE member States, with a specific focus on transition economies. Its activities aim at facilitating the exchange of experience and lessons learned, as well as of good practices in these areas, among ECE member States. In its work, the TOS-ICP responds to the needs of Governments, and takes into account the needs of consumers, and the academic and business communities.

III. Areas of work

3. To support CECI in achieving its objectives, the TOS-ICP engages in the following activities:

(a) Organizing an international policy dialogue on knowledge-based economic development in the ECE region with the aim of identifying international good practices and policy recommendations on selected key issues within the mandate of the TOS-ICP. As part of this policy dialogue, the Team will hold applied policy seminars as part of its annual sessions;

(b) Preparing synopses of good practices and policy recommendations on selected key issues within the Team's mandate for discussion and endorsement by CECI;

(c) Broadly disseminating the above good practices and policy recommendations;

(d) Subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, and on request from Governments, carrying out assessments of national innovation systems and policies ("Innovation Performance Reviews") with the aim of providing peer-reviewed policy recommendations to improve national innovation performance;

(e) Subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, and on request from Governments, providing advice on the implementation of policy reforms in areas within the mandate of the TOS-ICP;

(f) Subject to the availability of extrabudgetary resources, and in cooperation with Governments of countries with economies in transition, organizing technical assistance and capacity-building activities on issues within the mandate of the TOS-ICP. These activities will be organized on a national and a sub-regional basis.

IV. Membership

4. The TOS-ICP comprises government experts, as well as experts from relevant research and academic institutions, the business community and NGOs. National experts are nominated by the respective government authorities responsible for cooperation with CECI. In accordance with United Nations procedures, the TOS-ICP is also open for other experts from intergovernmental organizations, national and international business and research institutions and associations who wish to contribute to the implementation of its work plan.

V. Modalities of operation

5. The TOS-ICP operates in accordance with the Guidelines for the Establishment and Functioning of Teams of Specialists within the ECE (ECE/EX/2/Rev.1) and the Guidelines on Procedures and Practices for ECE Bodies (E/2013/37 E/ECE/1464, Annex III, Appendix III).

6. The TOS-ICP is established for a period of two years with the possibility of extension if so decided by CECI, and approved by the Executive Committee of the ECE. CECI may modify the Terms of Reference of the TOS-ICP as required, subject to approval by the Executive Committee of ECE.

7. Secretariat support to the TOS-ICP is provided by the ECE secretariat.

8. The TOS-ICP develops its plan of work and reports to the annual session of the Committee on its implementation.

9. Expenses associated with the implementation of the TOS-ICP plan of work are supported through extrabudgetary contributions of member States and other stakeholders, and are to be provided, managed and used in accordance with United Nations rules and regulations.